



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CALPEEK EDITOR CALLED FOR L.A. CO. JURY DUTY

Just another reminder that Calpeek editor Dick Rosengarten has been called for jury duty the week of Nov. 18th. We still plan to produce our Nov. 25th newsletter, but may be a day late in mailing it. Just wanted to warn you. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: NEWSOM BIG WINNER IN S.F. CITY ELECTIONS. INSIDERS EYE 2003 RACE FOR MAYOR.

Editor's note: When the dust cleared from the 2000 elections, San Francisco local politics swung from the *center-left* to a *far-left* and S.F. Mayor Willie Brown was left out in the cold. As a result of the Nov. 5th 2002 election, the political pendulum may have *swung back* toward the center-left. Here's our update & analysis...

...Lame duck S.F. Mayor Brown may still have to dress warmly until a new mayor takes office in January of 2004, but at least he can take comfort in knowing that the Hetch Hetchy water supply system serving 2.4 million people will be fixed; PG&E will remain as the city's chief supplier of power (for now); and perhaps S.F.'s key problem, 10,000 or more homeless, won't be the problem they are today IF the sponsor of Prop. N, S.F. Co. Sup. Gavin Newsom, can persuade his fellow Supes to do the necessary follow-up work to implement Newsom's *Care Not Cash* initiative...

...Prop. N won Nov. 5th with a nearly 60% vote and this the pundits say may go a long way in helping Newsom become S.F.'s next mayor. For those who haven't paid attention, Prop. N will reduce cash payments to the homeless from about \$350 per month down to about \$60 per month. The money saved will be put into services (food & shelter) for the homeless. When Newsom started his campaign, N was not a sure bet because the city's liberal establishment (labor, Burton, Ammiano + Bd. of Supes) were strongly opposed. Newsom's only big name supporter: U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein. Mayor Brown endorsed YES, but didn't actively campaign for Prop. N...

...Newsom and his campaign team, led by consultants Eric Jaye and Jim Ross, put together a citywide coalition of 500 volunteers, raised a war chest of \$1 million and IDed 50,000

voters who were in favor of the *Care Not Cash* measure. Sources speculate the Prop. N coalition will form the basis of Newsom's upcoming 2003 campaign for mayor. He hasn't announced for mayor as yet, but that may come fairly soon. Both Jaye & Ross will be working on Newsom's mayoral campaign. And as of now, Newsom would have to be considered the #1 contender to replace Brown...

...It wasn't only that Newsom won with big numbers, it was that the liberal establishment really got *mashed* on N, as well as on a number of other initiatives. The defeats of N and D (anti-PG&E initiative) were especially damaging to Supes Chair Tom Ammiano, who has already announced for mayor. Some *Calpeek* sources now say the S.F. liberal establishment is looking for an alternative to Ammiano. Many eyes are on popular Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-SF), who was just elected to the Board of Equalization...

...Others seriously looking include S.F. Treasurer Susan Leal, former S.F. Co. Sup. Angela Alioto and former S.F. Police Chief Anthony Ribera. Still testing the waters are S.F. Sup. Tony Hall and perhaps Burton. Prior to the Nov. 5th election, pundits predicted a Newsom vs. Ammiano mayoral runoff for mayor. Now all bets on Ammiano are off. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: MORE CALIF. ELECTION ANALYSIS

Editor's note: *Calpeek* has decided to hold off for one more week our popular *Winners & Losers* column. There are a couple of key races still not settled and we want to have a firmer handle before writing the column. Here's our update, analysis & commentary...

◆ **Turnout** – Still a record low general election turnout for Calif., but the numbers keep inching upward. Election night the turnout was 44.1%. As of 3 p.m. 11/13 it's 48.2% (7,377,026 in raw votes). As for absentee and provisional ballots, there are still some 344,247 left to be counted, but this is down from about 750,000. And big hunks of absentee ballots have been counted in some of the State's larger counties. But according to the Secretary of State's website (as of

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11/13/02 @ 9 a.m.) many of the bigger counties still have a way to go before completing the count: L.A. 53,334; Orange 16,285; Riverside 20,000; Sacto 35,000; Marin 10,800; San Mateo 14,780; Santa Clara 39,925; San Joaquin 23,000; and Sonoma 21,500...

...**Problems locally with registrars.** Currently, each Registrar has 28 days after the election to certify the votes. It's not mandatory that they do updates as the absentee ballots and provisional ballots are counted – in terms of what's been done and what's left. Sources in Sacto say a number of registrars are acting as if they have their own fiefdoms and the Secretary of State is a supplicant – not Calif.'s chief elections officer...

...One of the bigger problems in getting a good count is that of the 58 county registrars, a good chunk (20) don't have their own websites to post election results. And those who do have websites often are very slow to send their updated numbers to the SOS's office for posting on the official SOS website. Sources say a number of insiders in both parties believe that in-coming SOS Kevin Shelley(D) needs to rein in these registrars so that there is a mandatory and uniform procedure for doing updates. Until that happens, the Demo & GOP *paranoia level* is at *Def-Con 1*...

◆ **Controller's Contest** – The battle to replace termed out Controller Kathleen Connell(D) between GOP State Sen. Tom McClintock and businessman Steve Westly(D) continues to be a close contest. On Nov. 6th Westly held a lead of about 26,000. His high mark has been 34,000, but he's been as low as 6,300. As *Calpeek* hit deadline, Westly was back up to a 24,603 (as of 3 p.m. 11/13). In terms of percentage: Westly 45.5% vs. McC 45.1%. Our best guess is that Westly holds on to win...

...FYI: as *Calpeek* noted last week, McClintock didn't get as much money from the CA Republican Party(CRP) as LG candidate Bruce McPherson or SOS candidate Keith Olberg. Both of them got \$265,000. GOP Insurance Comm. candidate Gary Mendoza got \$1.2 million. McC got only \$150,000 – and he needed to yell to get that. Our sources say this is the 2nd time McC has been screwed over by the CRP. In 1994, when he ran against Connell, he was left out of a tv ad featuring 3 other down ballot GOP statewide candidates. Why was he left out? Our sources say it was because he POed then Gov. Pete Wilson(R). Bottomline: the current White House political operation isn't pleased that McC got short changed. It's not because they like McC (he has a tendency to make enemies – even on the GOP side). Rather it's because McC has some influential conservative friends in DC and

the Bush White House wants to keep the peace with this group of GOPers. So who was responsible for screwing over McC? It was not CRP Chair Shawn Steel. His power to dish out \$\$\$ has been cut by those who control the current CRP Operations Cmt. That's the group that screwed McC...

◆ **12th SD** – Both GOPers and Demos are keeping a close watch on this very tight OPEN seat race between former Assemblyman Rusty Areias(D) and GOP businessman Jeff Denham. Tons of pressure on the 5 counties to get the A/Vs and provisionals counted ASAP. Demos say some of the pressure is coming from the RNC, but an RNC source says not so – it's probably coming from the Calif. GOP(CRP)...

...On Nov. 6th Areias held a very narrow 226 vote lead. He held that lead until 11/12 when absentee votes from Stanislaus Co. pushed Denham into a lead of 48.5% to 47.0% - 2,057 raw votes. However, there are still many uncounted provisional votes – most of those in Areias strongholds. Demos say Denham/GOPers have been challenging many of the provisional ballots cast by Latino voters. The GOP needs to be very careful. Democratic computer programs (crunching the numbers) estimate Areias will eventually be back on top narrowly. *Calpeek* still rates this contest a toss up – with perhaps a slight edge to Denham...

◆ **30th AD** – As of 11/12, Demo Nicole Parra held a 50.2% to 49.8% lead over GOPer Dean Gardner in this open Central Valley AD. In raw votes, Parra's lead is just 187 votes. Still too close to call – and yet this was supposed to be a safe AD for a Demo. Stay tuned...

CALIF.'s PELOSI TO LEAD U.S. HOUSE DEMOCRATS
Editor's note: Unless there's a huge upset, by the time you read this brief update, U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi(D-S.F.) will have been elected to replace Richard Gephardt as the leader of the Demo Party in the U.S. House. Pelosi is expected to defeat 32-year-old U.S. Rep. Harold Ford of TN – a *Blue Dog Demo* and a member of the Black Caucus. Here's our very brief update & analysis...

...It's not just the conservative radio talk show hosts who think Pelosi is way too liberal (wrong image for the Demos, they say). Ford said the same thing too. And a new USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll showed **54%** of Demos saying the party was too liberal. And bet your first born that some of Pelosi's more liberal views & votes will be used by the NRCC and the RNC to raise a ton of money...

...But those who know her best think she's exactly what the Demos need to lead them in the 108th Congress – someone who can count heads, energize the Demo base and who is a good political mechanic – and that's what Pelosi will deliver. She comes out of the Phil Burton school of politics (ideology as well as practical side of running campaigns - the need for solid fundraising and strong GOTV). In the *Campaign 2002* cycle she raised about \$8 million for Demo candidates...

...And while Pelosi will show a more liberal face than Gephardt, don't forget she'll have in new Demo House Whip Steny Hoyer(D-MD) a *centrist Demo* who is well liked by the DC media crowd. In other words, Pelosi won't be the only Demo U.S. House face seen on the tv talk shows...

...As *Calpeek* hit deadline, the 108th Congress will have 228(R) vs. 203(D), with 1 independent AND 3 undecided contests...

...Pelosi's biggest problem: convincing incumbent Demos, especially those older, male Demos from Southern and Border states, not to retire in 2004. In many cases, those seats now held by moderate and conservative Demos might be easy GOP pickups if the CDs were OPEN with no incumbent Demos holding them. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2002: RESULTS OF CITY/COUNTY RACES.

Editor's note: We've got lots of city and county races to report, including DA & Sheriffs races, County Board of Supes contests, bond measures, local initiatives and a few key mayor's contests...

☒ ***County Sheriffs Contests*** – Not counting retirements, a total of 4 incumbent county sheriffs were defeated for reelection in the 2002 election cycle. Latest incumbent to fall was Charles Byrd of Siskiyou Co., who lost to Yreka PD Lt. Rick Riggins (58.47%). Other runoff winners for OPEN seats included: in Del Norte, Crescent City PD Officer Dean Wilson (61.6%) who defeated former Del Norte Sheriff Mike Ross; in Kern Co., CHP Officer Mack Wimbish (51%) defeated Kern Co. Sup. Steve Perez; and in Monterey Co., Commander Mike Kanalakis (62.1%) defeated Commander Lonnie Heffington...

☒ ***County DA Contests*** – Incumbent DAs Jeffrey Tuttle of Calaveras Co. and Gary Lacy of El Dorado Co. won reelection after being forced into runoffs. In San Bernardino Co., incumbent DA Dennis Stout dropped out of the contest after the primary, thus DDA Mike Ramos was elected with 65.5% of the vote...

...Another incumbent to bite the dust was two-term San

Diego DA Paul Pfingst, who lost in a very close and rather nasty runoff battle with Sup. Court Judge Bonnie Dumanis. Final count was Dumanis 50.3% vs. 49.6% for Pfingst. In raw numbers, Dumanis leads by 3,556 votes. While the Deputy DAs in the office sided with Dumanis, Pfingst had the DA investigators, the *San Diego Union Tribune* and popular Sheriff Bill Kolender on his side. It was a nice win for consultant Jennifer Tierney (Gemini Group). FYI: The 50-year-old Dumanis is openly lesbian but that didn't surface as an issue...

...In open seat DA contests, DDA Elizabeth Egan defeated DDA Jeff Hamilton in Fresno; in Contra Costa, Chief DDA Bob Kochly eased past S.F. ADA Mike Meneseini; in Del Norte, DDA Mike Rease defeated DDA Nan Udell; in San Benito, Monterey Co. DDA John Sarsfield defeated PD Arthur Cantu...

☒ ***San Francisco Supervisor Contests*** – The even numbered seats were up for grabs Nov. 5th. Incumbent Supes Gavin Newsom & Sophie Maxwell were easy winners. The big surprise was incumbent Sup. Chris Daly. Pundits felt Daly would be forced into a runoff election with S.F. DDA Burke Strunsky, but Daly got 51.45% to avoid a Dec. 10th runoff...

...The runoff for the 4th District will feature Ron Dudum and Fiona Ma (aide to John Burton) – both got about 23%. In the 8th District, the runoff battle will be between Eileen Hansen and Bevan Duffy...

☒ ***Local School Bonds*** – According to a news release from YES on 36 consultants Goddard Claussen, Calif. voters approved 86 of 108 local school bonds on the Nov. 5th ballot. The total amount approved was about \$9.7 billion, including the big \$3.35 billion Prop. K measure for the LAUSD, which won with 68.02% margin. Prop. 39 was passed by voters in 2000 and lowered the approval vote from 2/3rds to 55%. 6 of 8 school bonds which did require a 2/3rds vote lost...

☒ ***City Mayor Contests*** – The two hottest contests for mayor were in Anaheim and Berkeley. Two complete opposites, except for one thing: both races featured former CA Assemblymen. In Anaheim, Curt Pringle, who served as GOP Assembly Speaker from 1995-1997, won election over two Anaheim councilmember – Lucille Kring and Frank Feldhaus. Pringle won with 35%. In Berkeley, it was Tom Bates(D) who defeated incumbent Mayor Shirley Dean by a 55.9% vs. 42.4% margin. In Sacramento, voters approved Measure S to make the mayor's job full time. S passed with 61.7%...

☒ **County Contests** – In the various battles for County Board of Supes, one of the more interesting contests was Measure P in Santa Barbara – the recall of Sup. Gail Marshall. It lost by a margin of 53 to 47. Big loser here was former SB Sheriff Jim Thomas. In San Bernardino Co., incumbent Sup. Jon Mikels lost to Paul Biane by a 56% to 44% margin. Supervisor winners included Don Maben & Ray Watson in Kern Co.; Alice Lai-Bitker in Alameda Co.; Susan Adams in Marin Co.; Diane Dillon in Napa Co.; Valerie K. Brown in Sonoma Co.; and John Vasquez in Solano Co...

☒ **Odds & Ends** – Not to be overlooked, outgoing Anaheim Mayor Tom Daly was elected Orange County clerk/recorder... In Sacramento Co., voters OKed Prop. W for Rancho Cordova Cityhood with a 77.7% YES vs. 22.3% NO vote... In Santa Monica, voters rejected Prop. HH for district elections & term limits (64% NO vote)... In S.F., incumbent Assessor Doris Ward was defeated for reelection by former Sup. Mabel Teng. The margin was 58.7% for Teng vs. 40.64% for Ward. Not even close. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2003: L.A. CITY PREPARES FOR ANOTHER COUNCIL ELECTION. FAMILIAR PEOPLE RUNNING...

Editor's note: Seven(7) even numbered seats on the L.A. City Council are up for grabs on Mar. 4th and some very well known people have filed. What's more, the campaign in East L.A.'s 14th Council District has already turned into a nasty brawl between incumbent 1st term Councilman Nick Pacheco and former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. Here is *Calpeek's* first update & analysis...

...Four former members of the State Assembly are in the list candidates, as is the former L.A. Police Chief, Bernard Parks. Council Districts 6, 8, 10 and 12 are all OPEN, with no incumbents. Filing for the council closed on Nov. 9th...

◆ **2nd District** – Incumbent Wendy Greuel drew only one rival: film producer/director John Quinn. Greuel is a heavy favorite to win a full term...

◆ **4th District** – Like Greuel, incumbent Tom LaBonge is expected to win a full first term when all the ballots are finally counted. He has drawn 3 rivals, but at this point none of them pose a serious threat...

◆ **6th District** – This is the newly created seat in the San Fernando Valley's eastern side. The best known in this field of 8 candidates is Assemblyman Tony Cardenas, who ran a very tight race with Greuel earlier this year (for the Joel Wachs seat). Cardenas will be well funded and supported

by organized labor. Jamie Cordaro, who finished 3rd behind Greuel and Cardenas in the 2nd District special election, has withdrawn. He would have been Cardenas main competition had he stayed in the contest...

◆ **8th District** – This is the OPEN seat which was represented by Assemblyman-elect Mark Ridley-Thomas. In this field of 5, the heavy favorite is former L.A. Police Chief Bernard Parks. He'll have tons of money and the endorsement of Ridley-Thomas...

◆ **10th District** – This is the seat now held by termed out Councilman Nate Holden. His guy in this contest is his chief deputy, Deron E. Williams. The best known candidate (name ID) would be Assemblyman Rod Wright(D). Also in the top tier would be Martin Ludlow, former COPE director (labor). Also in the hunt is CA Demo Party secretary Reggie Jones-Sawyer, attorney Leo Terrell and minister/educator Madison Shockley who ran against Holden once before. This is perhaps one of the toughest districts to handicap. Any two of these candidates could end up in a runoff...

◆ **12th District** – This is the Valley district now represented by termed out Councilman Hal Bernson. Bernson's deputy Greig Smith has a tough fight on his hands because he'll be facing LAUSD member Julie Korenstein, former Assemblywoman Paula Boland(R) who finished first in her race for the council in the proposed San Fernando Valley city; and attorney Robert Vinson. Korenstein and Boland have the name ID, but the serious money will be with Smith and perhaps Vinson. Another tough race to handicap. FYI: Korenstein is a long time client of SG&A Campaigns, but Parke Skelton & Steve Barkan signed with Vinson many months ago and are staying with him...

◆ **14th District** – Incumbent Nick Pacheco faces 5 rivals, but in reality it's really a contest between himself and former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. For those living outside of L.A., this contest has already turned bitter and vicious, thanks to Pacheco's buddy, law school chum Ricardo Torres, who has mailed two very personal and nasty hit pieces aimed at Villaraigosa. Villaraigosa's campaign has asked the DA and the City's Ethics Commission to go after Pacheco, claiming that Torres and Pacheco coordinated the release of these two mailers. The *L.A. Times* is on the warpath – running two stories and an editorial which doesn't paint Pacheco in a favorable light. Even consultants who are not involved with either side think Torres' efforts have seriously wounded Pacheco. FYI: L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca has yanked his endorsement of Pacheco. Stay tuned...